



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

MAY 11 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PERSONNEL AND
READINESS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS)

SUBJECT: Pre-Accession Drug and Alcohol Testing

This memorandum establishes new policy governing the qualification and disqualification of all applicants for military service participating in drug or alcohol testing at Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) or at the DoD Medical Examination Review Board (DoDMERB). The waiting periods specified below shall become effective on May 1, 2000, and shall apply to all applicants for military service receiving physical examinations on or after that date. These new waiting periods supersede those in the January 15, 1988 Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Policy on Pre-Accession Drug, Chemical, and Alcohol Use and Dependency Testing".

The increased sensitivity of drug testing makes it possible to reduce the waiting time for retesting applicants who test positive for marijuana. Therefore, to enable more rapid processing of applicants, the following testing procedures are approved:

- a. Military applicants shall test negative for drugs and alcohol prior to entering active duty or the reserve components.
- b. Guidelines for in-service testing programs remain unchanged.
- c. Disqualification Period (First Test). Applicants testing positive on their initial test are not eligible for military service for a period of 45 days from the date of the test. Applicants may, at Service discretion, return for retesting and MEPS or DoDMERB processing, if appropriate, on the 46th day following the date of the initial test.
- d. Disqualification Period (Second Test). Applicants testing positive on their second test are not eligible for military service for a period of 24 months (730 days) from the date of the second test. Applicants may, at Service discretion, return for retesting and MEPS or DoDMERB processing, if appropriate, on the 731st day following the date of the second test.



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e. Disqualification Period (Third Test). Applicants testing positive on their third test shall be permanently disqualified for military service.

f. Grandfathering Provision. Applicants testing positive on their initial test, if it was conducted on or before March 15, 2000, may return for retesting and MEPS or DoDMERB processing, if appropriate, on or after May 1, 2000. This grandfathering provision shall not apply to those receiving second and subsequent positive test results, or to those receiving any positive result for both THC and cocaine on the same specimen.

When military applicants test positive for cocaine (including positive marijuana and cocaine results on the same specimen), the following procedures shall be followed:

a. Disqualification Period (First Test). Applicants testing positive on their initial test are not eligible for military service for a period of 12 months (365 days) from the date of the initial test. Applicants may, at Service discretion, return for retesting and MEPS or DoDMERB processing, if appropriate, on the 366th day following the date of the initial test.

b. Disqualification Period (Second Test). Applicants testing positive on their second test are not eligible for military service for a period of 24 months (730 days) from the date of the second test. Applicants may, at Service discretion, return for retesting and MEPS or DoDMERB processing, if appropriate, on the 731st day following the date of the second test.

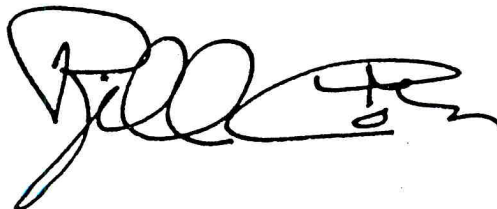
c. Disqualification Period (Third Test). Applicants testing positive on their third test shall be permanently disqualified for military service.

d. Grandfathering Provision. None.

Implementation responsibilities are as follows:

a. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall discharge from the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) applicants disqualified for military service under the policies set forth herein. The Commander, U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command (USMEPCOM), shall not administer drug or alcohol tests to any applicant in the DEP.

b. Commander, USMEPCOM and Director, DoDMERB shall manage the drug and alcohol testing workload to effect turnaround times on the processing of test specimens to minimize the impact on testing laboratories. USMEPCOM and DoDMERB also shall continue to notify applicants of positive results and provide them with lists of civilian treatment facilities specializing in substance abuse and addiction.

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